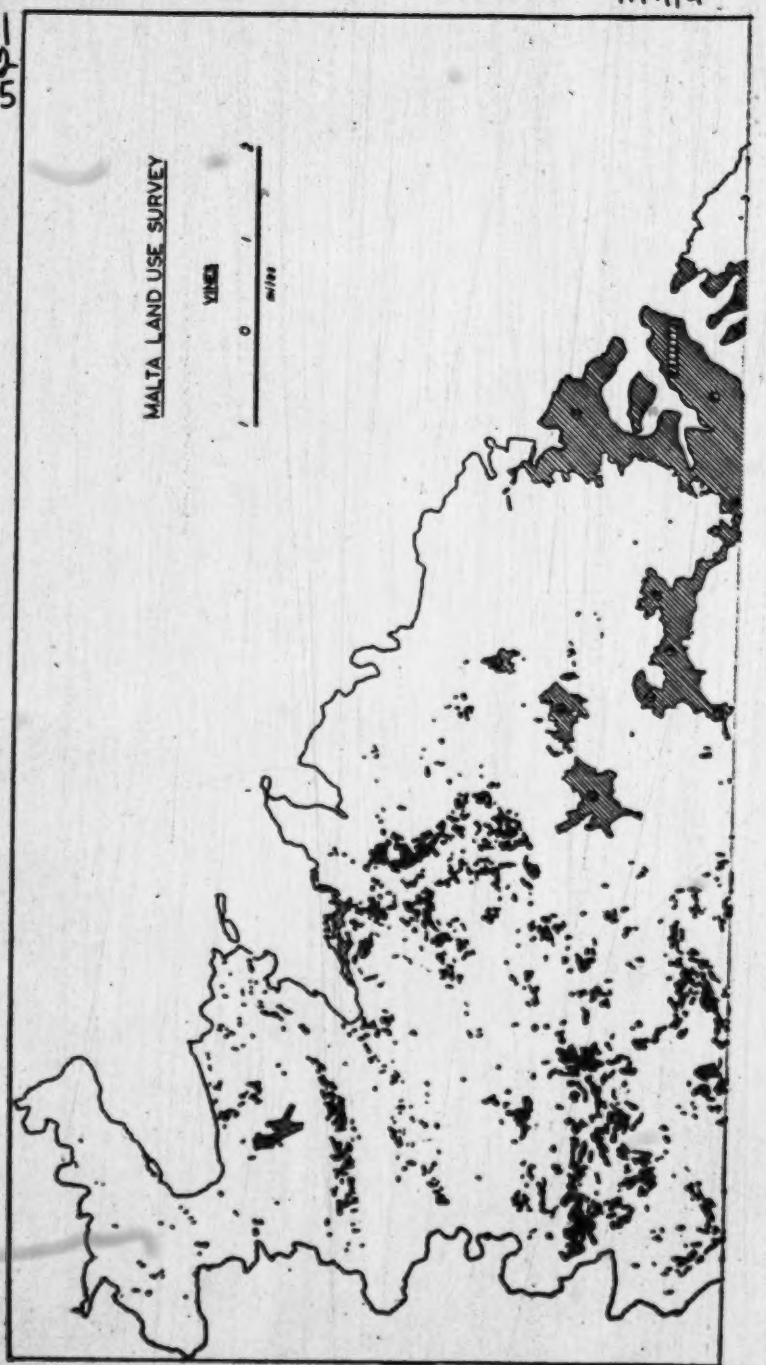
1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6
Malta
*311
102
295



[p. 210-A]

Fig. 81 Malta: Land Use Survey Lines

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961

EZ6 Malta EZ6

Malta

*311
102
●245

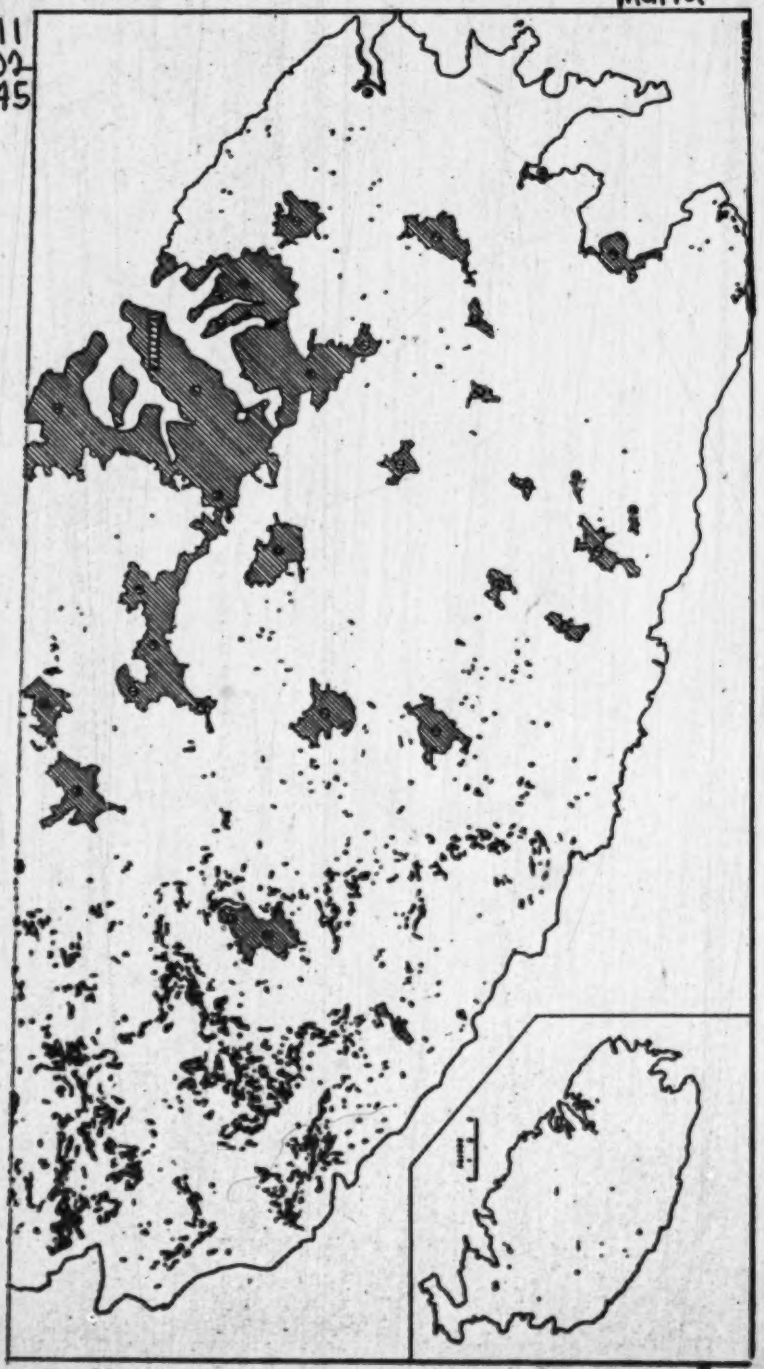


Fig. 81

Malta: Land Use Survey: Vines

[p. 210-B]

a reduction in the acreage planted during the following winter. In spring 1958, the export market could have absorbed more than the total production. Official encouragement to re-expand cultivation followed. Moreover, the main importing countries are those in which regulations governing the health of imported crops are most severe, and in which competition is most keen. When to these factors one must add two more, viz. the very high water demands of the crop and its comparatively low bulk value and high freight costs; then a very considerable doubt arises concerning the rationality of this sector of agriculture. On unirrigated land, a potato crop leaves the soil deprived of most of its water. On irrigated land it competes with crops of higher bulk value some of which are already cultivated on a smaller scale, such as strawberries, globe and Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, sub-tropical fruits, etc. Potatoes require no less labour, no less fertiliser, and are much less amenable to handling by fast land or air transport. The impression left by the crop survey is that Malta has almost somnambulistically developed this specialisation and that the ecological and economic implications have never been seriously examined.

Figs. 79 and 80 show the extent of land under potatoes during March and April. In Malta, the main concentrations are to be found in three different types of region. First, cultivation is widespread on the Globigerina lands. Most intense around the 'casals' and villages of the east and south, it seems more to be associated with human rather than with physical factors (see Chapter VIII). A marked thinning out is noticeable on the higher central slopes rising westward to the Coralline uplands. Secondly, there exist the very important concentrations in the major irrigated basins of the west and north such as Wied tal-Pwales, the Mellieha isthmus and the Marfa oases. Lastly, potato cultivation is of considerable extent on the smaller and more dispersed irrigated plots of the Upper Coralline plateaux, e.g. Hofret ir-Riss. In the predominantly dry-farmed upland basins of Bingemma and Mizieb, the acreage is relatively small.

Early potato cultivation in Goso is of much less importance, the island being one further step removed from the export market. Concentration is significantly greatest within easy reach of the settlements. In addition, potato growing is of importance in the tree-fruit and vegetable zones of the north-east. The crop is almost entirely absent from the more remote areas.

TREE CROPS

In the Maltese Islands are to be found a great variety of tree-crops of all kinds on irrigated and non-irrigated land. This variety, exemplified in one field in the Wied Qlejgha which carries apples, peaches, loquats, pomegranates, citrus fruit and vines, is in some ways detrimental to cultivation standards. Only a very few regions are completely devoid of tree-crops. Thermal conditions make possible the growth of a crop range extending from the temperate pome fruits to sub-tropical and tropical types such as the date and banana (albeit with poor results in the latter cases). Low water availability in the soil is the main restrictive factor. Irrigation generally doubles the yields of fruit crops and is essential for citrus cultivation. It is, however, certain that yields could be considerably increased, even on unirrigated land, by improvement of stock quality, by reducing disease and pest infestation and by less intercultivation. One of the main problems in Malta and Goso is that, as elsewhere in the world, farmers with a strong subsistence-farming streak in their makeup are apt to prefer the security of inter-cultivated poor crops to hazardous but rewarding specialisation.

One non-human factor which makes the arboriculturist's task more difficult is the wind-humidity complex. As noted in Chapter II, the effects of high wind velocity on transpiration and in producing physiological drought are considerable. High humidity, even in summer, produces special problems of plant pathology. Successful competition with more sophisticated producers possessing greater natural advantages seems unlikely.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6
Gozo

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102
245

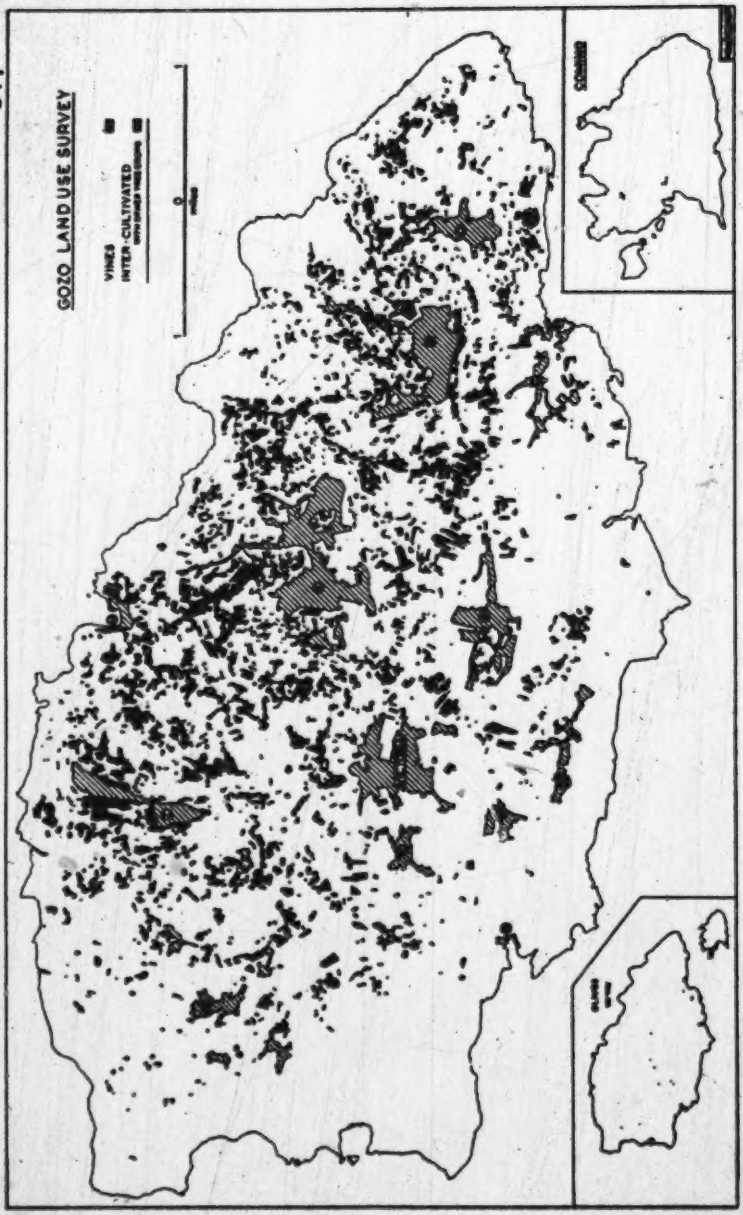

Fig. 83 Gozo: Land Use Survey: Vines.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

VINES

Viticulture, has suffered many vicissitudes. Needing irrigation water only for the raising of scions, the vine would seem a crop plant eminently suitable for all but the thinnest dry calcareous soils. No satisfactory reason has yet been adduced for the present absence of 'expertise' in this field, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs is a Mediterranean anachronism. Since Giacinto (3) wondered at Maltese oenological ignorance various improvements have taken place. Stock is American in origin imported during the Phylloxera epidemic in Europe. Scions are officially imported for grafting and are mainly from France. On the whole, too little specialisation is found, grapes being grown both for table use, fetching prices about £4 per qantar (175 lb. ave.), and for pressing - controlled prices 46s. to 48s. per qantar depending on quality. Commercial success in any other than the home market will depend entirely on whether the viticulturalist can now be weaned from quantity production to quality production. Products at present, while being remarkably good value, are not suitable for profitable export.

In Malta (Fig. 81), there is a striking concentration of viticulture in the western half of the island. In contrast to general Mediterranean practice, vines occupy much of the best watered heavy land of the Blue Clay slopes. Secondly, vines are of importance in the larger depressions with plentiful sub-soil water, for example the Wied il-Ghasel, the Binġemma Basin, and Miżieb. Those cultivated areas of the north and west which rely on pump irrigation - such as the Wied tal-Pwales, and the Rabat-Dingli upland pockets - have little land under vines. Over the remainder of the island, vines are mainly represented by wall- and house-side plants which, mainly for domestic use, are becoming of less importance as field cultivation is extended. This extension of acreage is taking place almost entirely in the traditional regions of the west.

As shown in Fig. 82, viticulture in Gozo, occurs in a great variety of conditions and there is a much greater extent of inter-cultivation with other tree-crops. Such inter-cultivation is particularly found in the *ġnien* zones - the spring line belts lying below the Upper Coralline mesa cappings - as around Żebbuġ and Nadur. North of Nadur, it extends into the Wieds San Blas and Dahlet Qorrot. Except in the remote western lands and on the thin soils of the southern hills, vines are found everywhere; in the central mixed-soil lowlands, in the open northern valleys and on the eastern coastal slopes. This reflects the traditional self-sufficiency of the Gozitan farm economy, a point also brought out by the large number of vineries (see p. 213). The vine is also inter-cultivated with sulla which, undersown annually, is a useful soil-renewing and cleaning crop.

OLIVES

Inset maps, Figs. 81 and 82, Malta must be the only Mediterranean land where the tradition of olive cultivation has almost disappeared. Vegetable oil consumption is high and has to be supplied by imports costing on average nearly £300,000 per annum. Olive cultivation has been more extensive in the past as attested by place names such as Żebbuġ - the place of the olive, and Żejtun - olive tree, and is still perfectly feasible over a great deal of under-utilised land. Various reasons for this strange situation have been mooted, ranging from the completely invalid belief that the olive cannot stand sea-air to the inadequate charge that tenurial security is insufficiently great. The matter is still a mystery.

Recent extensions of planting, particularly at Salinas and on Bajda Ridge, have been Government-sponsored, and the latter case is basically a scheme for the afforestation of a water catchment and percolation area.

CITRUS FRUITS

Because of their large water requirements, oranges and lemons are of orchard importance only along the Upper Coralline - Blue Clay springlines in Western Malta and Eastern Gozo. Scattered trees and very small plots are found in many districts, often in the most unlikely places. The Seville orange, once of considerable importance, is now rarely found and most of the old trees have

[TEXT CONTINUES ON P. 217]

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961

EZ6 Malta EZ6
Malta

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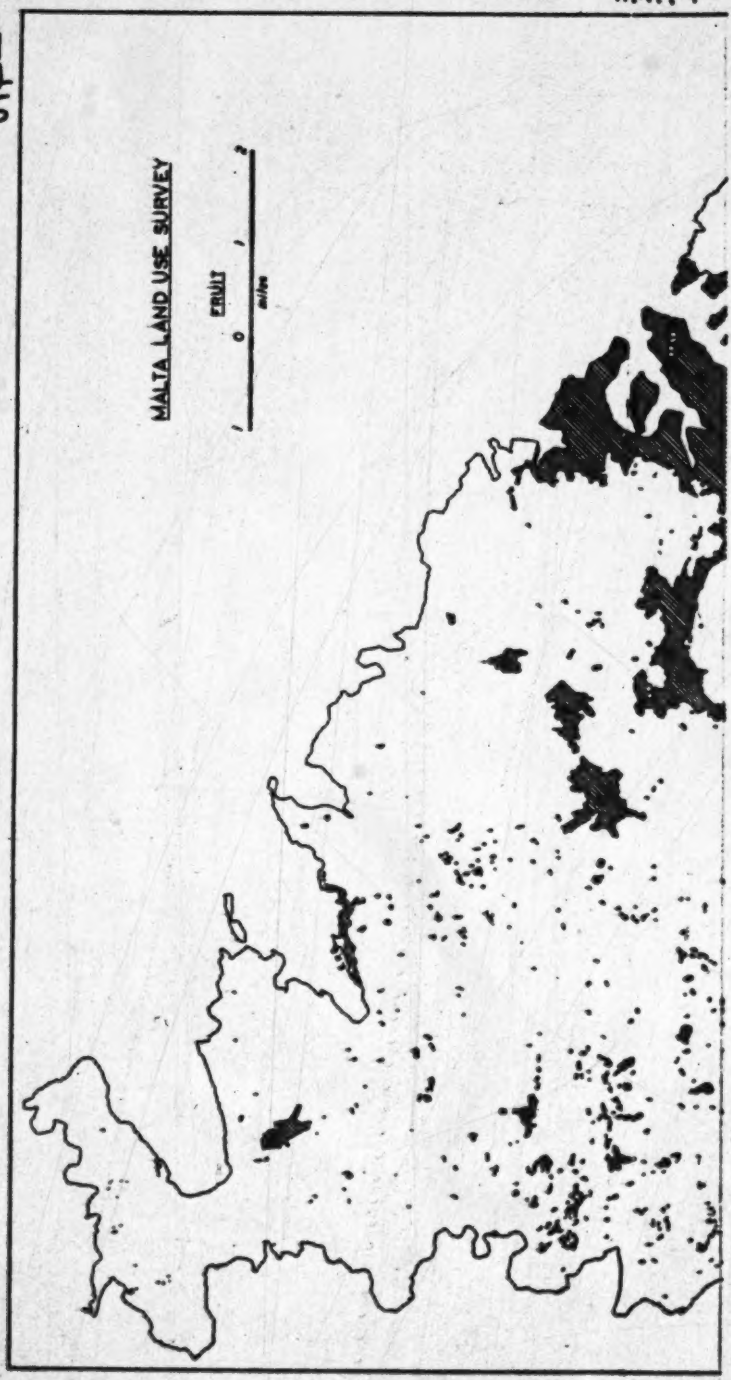


[p. 214-A]

Fig. 83 Malta: Land Use Survey: Fruit.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961

EZ6 Malta EZ6
Malta

311*
102
245

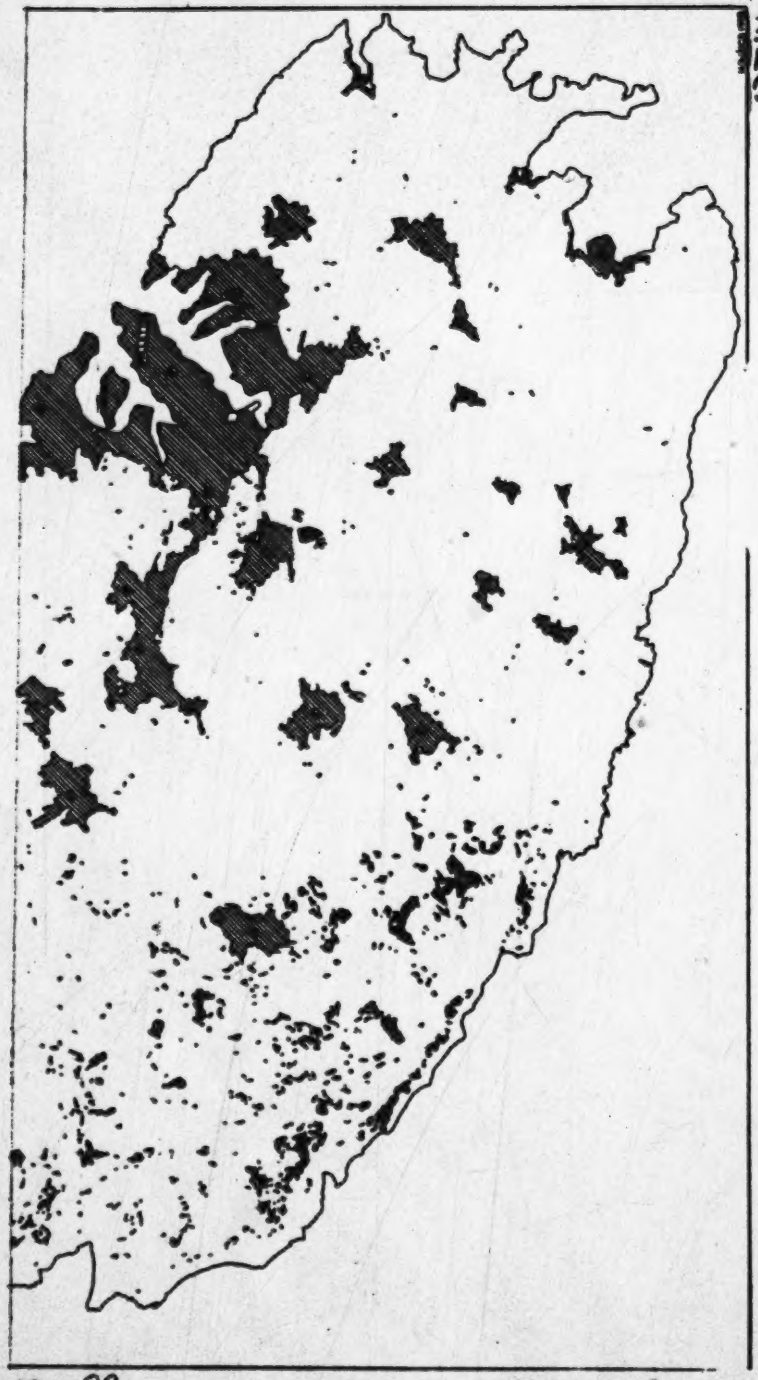


Fig. 83
Malta: Land Use Survey: Fruit.

[p. 214-B]

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6
GOZO

*311
102
245

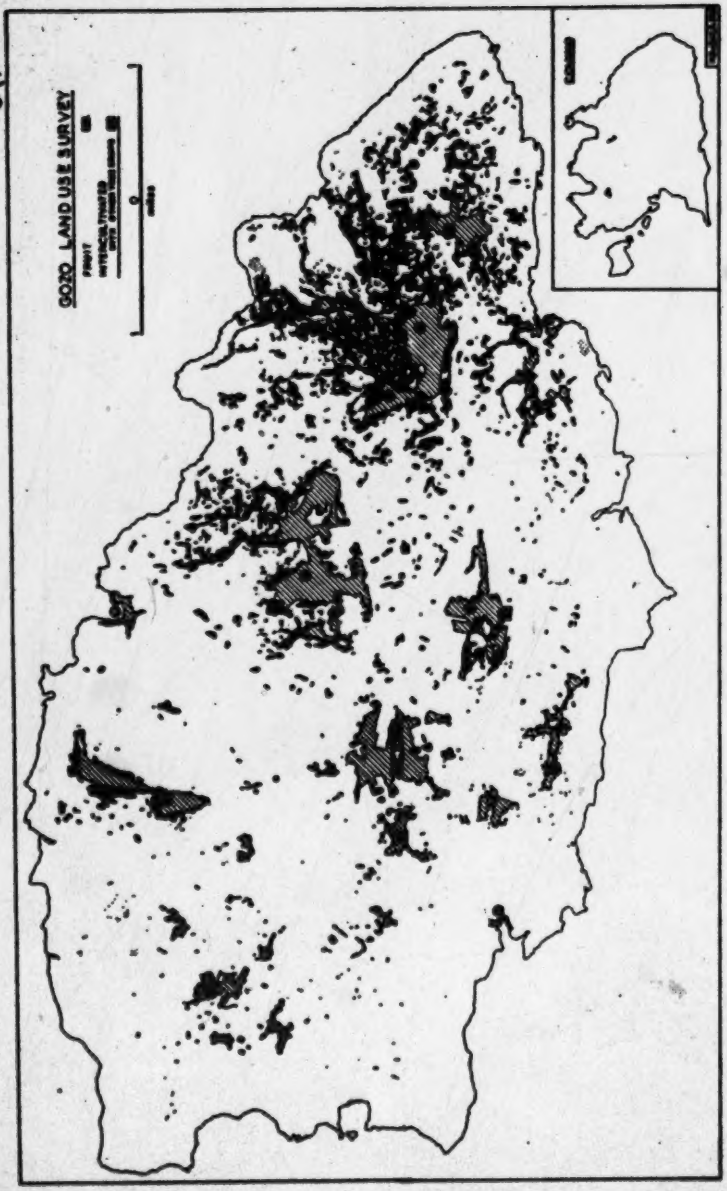


Fig. 84 Gozo: Land Use Survey: Fruit.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

been used as stock on to which lemons and sweet oranges have been grafted. Too great a variety of strains is cultivated, and too little grading is done to make citrus growing under difficult conditions a commercial proposition except in the home market. 311* 245

STONE FRUITS

Peaches and plums are found as wall-side crops in many areas. Irrigation improves their yields less than those of most other fruits and, since the water needs of the peach in particular are fairly low and soils generally suitable, commercial production for export to Northern Europe is at least a possibility.

POME FRUITS

Apples and pears are the only important members of this group. Apart from the *Bombinelli*, the small hard pears, efficient production implies the use of irrigation water by which means yields can be doubled or trebled. Production, at present sufficient for the home market, could be expanded. However, since handling and transport of these fruit is comparatively expensive and the complex organisation of European supplies is already established, better marketing facilities as well as an improvement in the quality of the crop would be required before any export sale could be established.

OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS

These range from pomegranates, grown, for example, as windbreaks in the Wied tal-Pwales, to loquats, which need irrigation, and almonds which, grafted on to wild peaches are prolific and hardy. Strawberries are grown on a limited scale in some of the irrigated areas. All these varieties, though distinguished in the original survey, are undifferentiated in Figs. 83 and 84. The distribution is clearly related to spring lines, Blue Clay outcrops and irrigated districts, and regional variations in the character of fruit farming are brought out in Chapter VIII.

FIG, CAROB AND PRICKLY PEAR

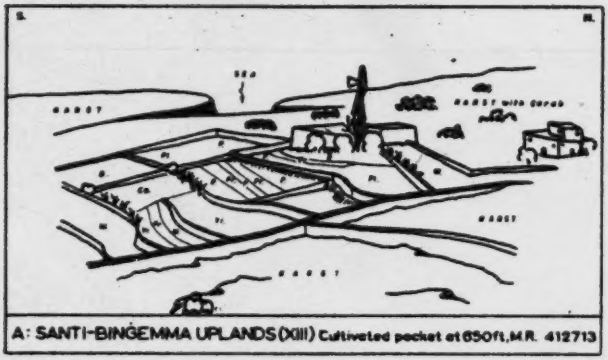
Fig trees are found for the most part along field edges and around farm-houses. Only in very rare instances do they occur in plantations though they are at times found growing in groves of mixed fruit trees. Of some importance domestically and in rural areas, the fig occupies an ecological position midway between that of the other fruits on the one hand and the prickly pear on the other. Physiologically well suited to dry soil conditions, fig trees require more shelter than the prickly pear and are less profitable on good land than are the stone fruits.

Prickly pear, of which only the spineless variety is grown, gives a poor fruit and serves as a reserve fodder. The young leaves are fed, chopped, to livestock when other fodder is in short supply. The nutrition provided is small but the water content is high. This plant is characteristically found on village and casal outskirts and in Malta it disappears in open country. In Gozo, where the leaves are often used to shelter growing vegetable plants, it is more widespread. Essentially a mark of primitive parochialism, the prickly pear sometimes occupies an unnecessarily large area of land and might occasionally be replaced by such plants as the sunflower, whose fodder value is much higher. A topic urgently in need of investigation is that of water extraction from neighbouring fields by wall crops of this kind. 311* 245 246

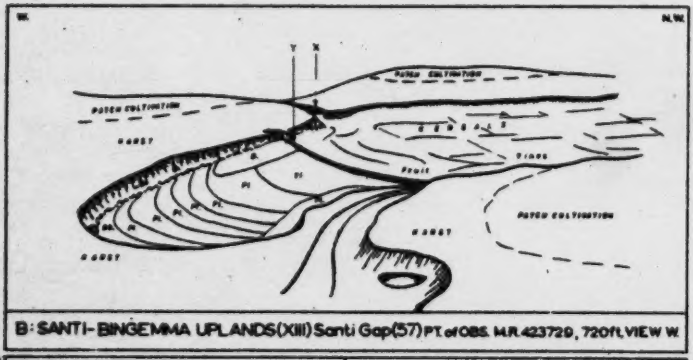
The carob is the tree of rough land and is rarely found on level areas, whatever their altitude. It has often been planted as much to disintegrate rock and boulders as to supply fodder. The beans have a very high fat and protein content but require feeding in moderation. Most of the large clumps in which this tree typically occurs are neglected and untended and are less productive than they could be. The import of carob beans into Malta would be appreciably reduced by more attention to the native trees. Under present conditions the carob is the only wasteland tree crop and its presence elsewhere denotes under-utilisation of better land.

1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6
Malta

*241
*311
102
133



A: SANTI-BINGEMMA UPLANDS (XIII) Cultivated pocket at 650ft, M.R. 412713

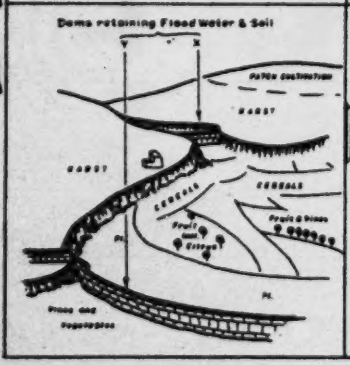


B: SANTI-BINGEMMA UPLANDS (XIII) Santi Gap (57) PT. of OBS. M.R. 423729, 720ft. VIEW W.

● [245]
→

[312]
←

C: Detail of part of area shown in B



D: Santi Gap : Distribution of tree-crops

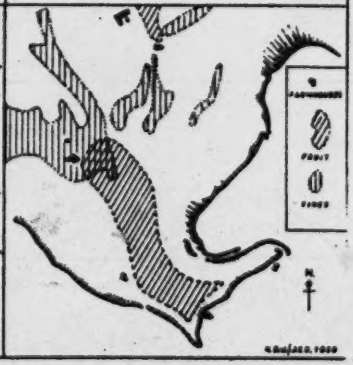


Fig. 107 Malta: Santi-Bingemma Uplands.

3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

The fortified towns and suburbs, apart from Rabato, form a practically continuous inhabited area. The population, especially in the suburbs, is extremely overcrowded. The country villages are irregularly built along a series of winding lanes, which converge on an open space not infrequently situated in front of the village church. In a corner of such a *piazza* there is usually a café, and it is here that the majority of measurements of the country people were taken, very often as the men came out of Mass on Sunday. Some of the villages have orange gardens, wherever there is sufficient water to spare for irrigation purposes.

Although with modern means of transport it is possible to visit practically the whole island in one day, many of the villages are nearly endogamous, in spite of the absence of geographical boundaries. The men of one village will certainly not seek their wives from a neighbouring village. If they marry outside their own hamlet, it will probably be with a girl from the suburban area. Similarly, many of the town dwellers find wives among the daughters of the country folk. No such distinctions appear to hold in the urban districts. Communications within this latter area are good and cheap, and extensive use of them appears to be made by the whole population.

III.—History.

The ethnological history of the archipelago is not as yet very clear, and further evidence is badly needed. A very interesting cave, usually known as Ghar Dalam, has been excavated by Mr. Despott, to whom I am indebted for permission to examine his finds and his MS. notes. The valley (the Weid Dalam) in which this cave is situated, shows signs of three terraces. The earliest terrace is high above the present level of the stream, which runs on the level of the old second terrace, and the third terrace, on a still lower level, is in most places filled up by *débris*, brought down by the present stream or its immediate predecessor. The second terrace appears to belong to two different periods, as there are in places marks on the rock of undercutting by the swirling of a stream at two very different levels. The river which cut out these terraces must, at least in flood time, have contained a considerable volume of water. The modern stream is, however, even at the wettest time, hardly more than a series of disconnected pools. The Ghar Dalam cave belongs to the earlier part of the second terrace. It contained numerous sherds, mostly Bronze Age. By far the greater part of the cave, however, was filled up with a very large number of bones, the majority of which belonged to a species of pygmy hippopotamus. These bones, and even the teeth, show considerable evidence of attrition by water.

In this fossil bed Mr. Despott claims to have discovered the remains of Neandertal man. All the human remains that have been found consist of very small fragments, and apart from one tooth, there is no evidence to show that these bones really belong to Neandertal man. The tooth is a molar exhibiting unusual characters, but in the absence of X-ray photographs or a section, and comparison with

*159 443 fluctuation. In such a situation he would find fixed annual repayments on loans for development much more difficult to meet.

SUMMARY OF CASE II

*159 (A goats milk producer with subsidiary cash-cropping).

A. Land.

[423] [427] Rents 10 separate plots, all dry land, in the Qawra Region.
Several landlords; total rent including house (£8.10.0) £35 p.a.

B. Utilisation.

[241] [311]
- Attention devoted mainly to fodders: wheat, barley, sulla.
- Grapes, some tomatoes and a few potatoes for sale.
- Various vegetables for home consumption.
- Grazing on waste and abandoned land.

C. Livestock.

[231]
- About 25 goats: 2 rams and 23 milkers all over 2 yrs. old.
- 20 hens, 5 pigs, 1 mule.

D. Capital.

[423] [454] [412] [409] [426] [427]
(i) No freehold land.
(ii) Little or no liquid reserve.
(iii) Equipment: usual hand implements; no mechanical equipment until 1957 when he bought a rotary cultivator at £350 with a government loan to be repaid at £62 p.a.
- Hires tractor and plow at 15 to 25/- per tomna.
- Borrows spray from brother.

E. Labour. (v. Table 4: Analysis of Work Record, 1957-58)

[464]
- No permanent hired labour.
- Help from wife and children (8 children, all below 14 yrs. of age, 4 at school).
- Employs a vine-grafter at 25/- a day when necessary (150 vines can be grafted in one day).
- Pays friends and relatives £1 daily for help at grape harvest.

F. Production and Sales.

[234] [43] [231]
(i) 22 goats (Nov. 1957) yield 3 gallons of milk daily which sells at 16/9 (5/7 per gall.).
- Keeps only milkers as no accommodation for rearing.
- Female kids sold for breeding fetch 7/- each, male kids sold to butchers when 15 days old fetch same price.
- Buys 3 to 5 goats annually to maintain herd - price in 1957 £10 each.
- 5 pigs includes 3 for meat, 2 for breeding; piglets weaned after 40 days and sold a week later.

● [245] [434] [244] (ii) Vine shoots bought from Govt. Farm at 28/- per 100. Grapes sold to vintners. Price takes no account of quality.
- In 1957 sold 30 qantar at 44/- per qantar = £66.
- Tomatoes, small quantities sold, but bulk of crop made into paste for home use.

G. Husbandry.

[245] (i)
- Much effort expended on vines. Pruned in January, when 2 yr. old shorts cut back.
- Grafting in February; new grafts produce small crop the same year.
- Sprayed, plowed (3 or 4 times) in May.

*159
[245]
- Many stocks now 20 years old require replacement.
- No early potatoes grown "because of sea-spray".
- Sulla sufficient for his own stock.

[233] [461] (ii)
- Half of every working day is devoted to grazing the goats on waste and abandoned land.
- Fodder from his own sulla and barley but has to buy cake and beans, prices varying between £2 and £3 per qantar - expensive.

[241] (iii)
- Manure from his own stock provides all his requirements and leaves surplus for sale.

[231]
- Uses 6 bags of sulphate of ammonia p.a., the only chemical fertiliser.
- Pig feed costs 11/- per sack which lasts his 5 pigs 4 days.

*159 [829] [24] H. General.
- Has a hopeful attitude towards farming but still expects a great deal of Government help in the form of grants, loans and subsidies.
- Claims that his children intend to succeed him on the land but they are young enough to change their minds.
- Willing to accept advice, but not impressed by experts who tell him either "things he knows already" or give him advice "which is sound but not applicable to Maltese conditions".
- Has only a very general idea of costs and returns. Takes no account of value of family labour.

*159 [434] [234]
- Basic income is from sale of milk (£300 in 1957) and grapes (£66) plus small quantities of vegetables (c.£12). Spends £100 p.a. on food for family in addition to his own produce.

[511]
- Typical of farmer who is satisfied with his lot, keeps his family decently fed and clothed but spends little or nothing on non-essentials. He is anxious to improve his herd, accommodation and methods but his farm provides no financial surplus with which to do this.

[454] [241]
- Continues to accept a standard of living far below that of his more sophisticated compatriots.

[511]

159 Their failure to profit contrasts with the success of the
829 Gozitan milk producer, Case I.
23 The partnership's main aim is to accumulate cattle with-
24 in the current artificial economy of milk production. There
433 is no thought or care for what might happen if the subsidy were removed or even reduced.

CASE X : Ġanri (An arable farmer in partnership with a brother and engaged in diversified production.)

*159 Ġanri is an arable farmer, specialising in fruit. He
24 has a couple of goats and sheep, a mule, and is keen to
23 acquire more pigs for fattening. Most of his effort is how-
427 ever centred on the land holding which he and his brother work
472 in partnership. Some fifty-three tmien are rented by the two brothers together while Ġanri himself rents a further ten tmien. About two-thirds of the land (17 plots) is owned by private landlords, one sixth belongs to the Church, one tenth to the Government and the remainder - about an acre - is owned by Ġanri's father.

*159 The working partnership of the two brothers is of many
402 years' standing. The brother's eldest son now works full-
464 time alongside the two men. The brothers say they could not
241 cope with any more land than they are working at present. They share the common view that hired farm labour is both uneconomic (at 25s or more for an eight-hour day) and inefficient. The land worked by the partnership is dry (baghli) apart from two irrigable (saqwi) tmien. In 1957 it was utilized as follows:

311

Fruit and vines	21 tmien
Cereals and fodders	18 tmien
Fallow, unproductive, or sub-let	13 tmien
Potatoes	6 tmien
Other vegetables	5 tmien

*159 Apples are the biggest single cash crop and the overall
245 success of any year depends on them. They were introduced
242 to the district by Ġanri's father some years ago and now grow in large numbers in a sheltered valley along with lemons, oranges, mulberries, figs, cherry-plums and other fruits. The produce is good but is usually affected by some pest or disease. The most prevalent of these is a boring grub. Ġanri and his brother spend a large part of September and October simply gouging this pest from the trunks of affected trees - with penknife and piece of wire. They regard this time-consuming and unremunerative task fatalistically. But of late Ġanri has been wondering whether the same result might not be achieved in a fraction of the time by the application of some spray. He knows nothing of the details of this and is more than a little doubtful of possibilities.

*159 Since 1953 Ġanri and his brother have expanded their
245 area under vines, buying seedlings from the Government Farm
435 at 1d each. They consider vines the most profitable of crops, especially grapes for wine since these can be picked

159 245 in a single picking and do not require the same attention to quality as those for the table.

159 245 231 451 In this move towards more vine production and the recent interest in pigs Ġamri is making a conscious effort to emphasize the profitable in place of the unprofitable. Income for Ġamri means the receipts on produce sold. Unlike most farmers he keeps a record of this income in order to see "how business is progressing" and in order to enable him and his brother to effect a share-out of profits. As found generally Ġamri takes no account of his own labour, or that of his brother or nephews, in his costing. Moreover the position is complicated by the fact that no clear distinction is made between money spent on the home and family, and money spent on field rents, costs of seed, manure, etc. It is all held "in one purse". [593] Ġamri himself maintains that a more usual practice is for the farmer to give his wife a fixed amount for house-keeping but, in his own case, there is clearly a high degree of trust and co-operation between husband and wife.

159 434 451 [511] At Easter, 1958, Ġamri spoke of a balance of some £400, less than half his reserves of a year previously. The drop was due to a £200 outlay on pigs and pig-sties together with several smaller items (such as £50 for street surfacing, £30 for a sewing machine, £15 hospital expenses, £30 for annual field rents, etc.) and the cost of repairing the damage wrought by the exceptionally heavy storms of late 1957. During the year 1956-57 it is estimated that Ġamri's income was about £350. £250 of this came from the sale of field produce as shown below, the rest is an estimate of income from pig sales and other items.

159 434 Income:

	From partnership land.	From Ġamri's Land	TOTAL
Fruit.....	£340	-	£340
Grapes.....	49	£ 8	57
Sulla.....	13	15	28
Potatoes.....	12	-	12
Melons.....	11	-	11
Tomatoes.....	7	13	20
Totals.....	£432	£36	£468
Ġamri's share	£216	£36	£252

159 434 435 This income pattern is by no means standard from year to year. The 1956-57 season was a poor year, with potato prices to the farmer low, sulla yields below average and a glut of fruit. 1953, on the other hand, was the best of recent years and brought each of the two brothers an income of £310 on fruit alone. The 1956-57 season with its glut in fruit found a quantity greater than in 1953 bringing less return than in that year on the market. This uncertainty as to income between one year and the next is today more important to the arable farmer than to the herdsmen who can rely on the M.M.U.'s guaranteed price and can therefore estimate his income more [454] accurately. The arable, and, especially, the fruit-farmer

159 He insists that the Government should stop imports of new
499 machines in face of the present decline in the demand for
405 contract deep-plowing. He sees himself and many farmer-
407 contractors like him going out of business in the near future.
477

CASE XII

This farmer (working 35 tmian, including seven irrigable) was among the first to acquire machinery in the 1930's. He [178] speaks of the slow start made in deep-plowing on account of the suspicion of most farmers who continued to use the mule or horse-drawn wooden plow exclusively for some years. Mechanized plowing is now fully accepted, he says, and, for the contracting plowman, is still a most profitable venture despite the present fierce competition for business.

CASE XX

X
159 Whereas CASE XIV-XIX have concerned plowing and threshing
407 contractors whose own fields are of secondary importance as a
241 source of income, this man is typical of the growing number of
434 farmers who see mechanization as the means whereby they them-
selves can cultivate a large holding. With his single tractor he cultivates some 35 tmien single handed and supplements his income from this holding by only a limited amount of contract-plowing in the summer season.

He notes that a further reason for the decline in demand [245] for the deep-plow on contract is the recent increase in the [178] area under vines (due to the steady demand for wine-grapes by local vintners).

CASE XXI

X
159 This Gozitan is a part-time contract plowman whose main
256 occupation is not farming but baking. His father was a salt-
241 seller but this business went to a brother shortly before the
407 1939-45 War whereupon this man decided to go in for full-time
472 contract plowing and threshing. For many years he remained
[477] the sole such operator in his village and business grew. However in the present decade competition from new tractor operators has "halved the work available in the summer plowing season" for his plows and threshing machine. This prompted him to build a bakery in 1954 to which he has since devoted all his time. However the tractor and threshing machine are still retained and are worked by a son as the demand arises.

CASE XXII

X
159 Another Gozitan, this English-speaking and astute man is
441 not himself a contract plowman but is a dealer and agent for
472 tractors, rotary cultivators and other agricultural machinery.
407 His father began the import of tractors to the Island, but
[191] those were wheeled and soon found to be unsatisfactory for local conditions. The first 'crawling' tractor was introduced in 1939 and has since been found to be well suited to the steep paths and fields and the small plots in Gozo, especially in wet weather. Since 1951 the use of rotary cultivators has spread rapidly through the Island and has led to a sharp decline in the work available to the deep-plowing tractors. Of twelve of the latter at present in the Island some three or four are normally unused in the season. This agent spoke of an agreement among the tractor operators of Gozo to limit individual spheres of operation during the 1957 plowing season.

[178] Like CASE XIV this man has been prepared to introduce new implements. His father was the first to import motor pumps (1920), while he himself brought in the first cultivator in 1951. His latest idea has been the import of harvesting machines, but the very limited success of the first ten which he brought in has discouraged him from buying any more. He observes that the fields of Gozo are too small for mechanization on this scale and that the harvester leaves a lot of straw in the ground which the farmer insists must be collected for animal fodder.

8:Brockman T-5 (no date) 1938
EZ6 Malta EZ6

Maltese	*English*	821
"Red sky at evening, harness your mules. Red sky at morning, herd your beasts."	"Red sky at night, Shepherd's delight. Red sky in the morning Shepherd's warning."	171 539
"Ill weather comes, ahead or astern, when the cat sneezes."	"The cat washes herself before stormy weather."	[825]

Often it appears that sheer nonsense is mixed with sound common sense. Typical of the mixed "sense" and "nonsense" is the following: 245 824 242

"The first autumnal produce of the wild fig is called by the Maltese *Barru*. A second crop which takes place in winter is supposed to be due to the outcome of the first produce. This is called *Carru*, and is supposed to bring forth the third outcrop which appears in spring time and is recognized as the *dukkar* or real fertilizer of the fig. This fruit is cut and hung up in pairs on the bough of the fig tree.

"The male fruit (*dukkar*) is usually full of a colony of minute winged insects by the produce of which, the Maltese husbandman identifies the real fertilizing fruit. [825]

"The pomegranate is supposed to be fertilized by the flowers of the wild parsnip, and for this purpose bunches of these flowers are thrown over the pomegranate tree when in flower. *Dakra*, probably from *dakar* = to fertilize, is the name given to the wild parsnip by the Maltese husbandman.

"The male flowers of the wild carob-tree (*baghal*) are thrown over the branches of the female plant to favour impregnation.

Small pieces of coarse stone are still hung up in the jujube-tree with a view to securing a good produce. 241 823